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WC 08-159  
BEST FILE COPY ORIGINAL

VIA HAND DELIVERY

July 3, 2008

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Commission Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL - 3 2008

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Hargray Communications Group, Inc. For Authority to Discontinue Certain Services

John Staurulakis, Inc. (JSI) respectfully files the enclosed Section 63.71 Application of Hargray Communications Group, Inc. ("Hargray") for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services. This filing contains an original and four (4) copies, along with a copy marked stamp and return to be provided to the courier making this filing for delivery to JSI. Hargray respectfully requests grant of this application by August 1, 2008.

On June 27, 2008, Hargray began sending notices to all customers affected by this change in service, and advised those customers, if they wish to object to this action, to file comments within 15 days after receipt of that notification, with the Federal Communications Commission. A copy of this Notice is attached to this filing as Exhibit A.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, or if you require additional information. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth T. Cartmell  
Senior Consultant-Regulatory Affairs

on behalf of

Hargray Communications Group, Inc.

KTC/tms  
Enclosure

CC: Andrew Rein, Hargray Communications Group, Inc.  
Trey Judy, Hargray Communications Group, Inc.

Echelon Building II, Suite 200  
9430 Research Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78759  
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

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547 South Oakview Lane  
Bountiful, Utah 84010  
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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL - 3 2008

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Section 63.71 Application of )  
Hargray Communications Group, Inc. ) Comp. Pol. File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
For Authority to Discontinue )  
Certain Services )

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission's Rules<sup>1</sup> and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,<sup>2</sup> Low Country Carriers, Inc. dba Hargray Long Distance. ("Hargray" or the "Company") hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of long distance service, to a small number of customers that the Company serves in South Carolina ("Application").<sup>3</sup> In support of this Application, Hargray submits the following:

**I. Information Required by Section 63.71(a)(1) -(4)**

**A. Name and Address of Carrier**

Low Country Carriers, Inc.  
856 William Hilton Parkway, Bldg C  
P.O. Box 5986  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:  
Aubrey E. (Trey) Judy, Director, Regulatory and Carrier Relations  
Hargray Communications Group, Inc.  
856 William Hilton Parkway, Bldg C  
P.O. Box 5986

<sup>1</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

<sup>2</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

<sup>3</sup> As required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, Hargray has notified and submitted a copy of this Application to the Georgia Public Service Commission, the South Carolina Public Service Commission, the Governor of the State of Georgia, the Governor of the State of South Carolina, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense. Hargray is a certificated competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC") in both Georgia and South Carolina and provides local exchange, DSL, long distance and Internet Service Provider ("ISP") services. A subsidiary of Hargray Communications, Inc., Hargray of Georgia and Hargray of South Carolina are also certificated CLECs in their respective states, however, this Application does not seek discontinuance of any of the services currently being offered by these companies at this time.

Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

**B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance**

Hargray plans to discontinue service to areas where it provides long distance where it does not also provide local service, on August 1, 2008, or later upon completion of obtaining all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

**C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected**

Hargray currently serves the following areas where it intends to discontinue service where it does not also provide local telephone service: Beaufort, Burton, Columbia Early Branch Fripp Island, Hampton, Lady's Island, Laurel Bay, Okatie, Port Royal, Ridgeland, Saint Helena Island, Seabrook, and Tillman

**D. Brief Description of the Types of Services Affected**

In the areas referenced above, Hargray provides the following types of services which will be discontinued only where Hargray does not also provide local service:

**1. Long distance service.**

**II. Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers**

Beginning on June 27, 2008 and concluding on July 1, 2008, Hargray sent written notice to all affected customers. A sample copy of the notice sent to customers is attached as Exhibit A.

**III. Status of Carrier**

Hargray is non-dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue.

**IV. Circumstances of Discontinuance**

The Company's decision to discontinue long distance telephone service on a stand alone basis was a difficult decision, which was primarily based on the Company's technical inability to continue providing such services without significant network enhancements. Hargray currently provides out of territory long distance services using 3<sup>rd</sup> party switching and transport services. Hargray's provider plans to take the existing switch out of service on October 1, 2008 and does not plan to offer switching and transport services after the conversion. Hargray has determined that the cost of continuing to provide stand alone long distance service will force it to set rates at a level that would be uneconomical to its customers. Moreover, it is the Company's understanding that there are other service providers that offer long distance telephone service within the service area in question. Exhibit A contains a copy of the Notice that was sent to all affected customers, urging them to contact a new long distance service provider and request that their service be switched to that service provider as soon as possible, in order to mitigate the impact of this difficult business decision.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNT

RE: URGENT Notice of Discontinuance of Long Distance Telephone Service

Dear Customer:

This letter is to inform you that on July 31, 2008, Low Country Telephone Co., Inc. d/b/a Hargray Long Distance ("Hargray") will no longer be providing long distance service where an affiliated company does not also provide local service.

This was a difficult business decision based primarily on the Company's decision to focus on providing in territory communications services. We are providing this notice in advance of our target termination date to allow you sufficient time to find another communications provider.

It is our understanding that there are other providers which offer long distance telephone service within your area. Generally, you will find a list of telecommunications service providers in your local telephone directory. In order to make your selection, you must contact a telecommunications service provider of choice and request that your service be switched to that provider. We encourage you to contact an alternate provider as soon as possible.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments within 15 days after receipt of this notification. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Commission Secretary, 445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W., Washington, DC, 20554, and reference the Application of Low Country Telephone Co., Inc. d/b/a Hargray Long Distance. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

While Hargray will no longer provide long distance service in your area, Hargray affiliates will continue to offer local telephone service to customers within their franchise boundaries as well as Beaufort, South Carolina, Pooler, Georgia, and other nearby territories.

We regret any inconvenience we may have caused you, and we thank you for the opportunity to have served you.

Sincerely,

Low Country Telephone Co., Inc. d/b/a Hargray Long Distance